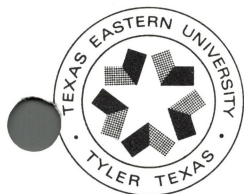


10-24-1977

Administrative Notes, October 24th, 1977

University of Texas at Tyler

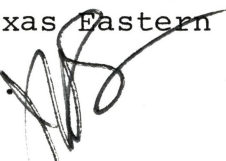


TEXAS EASTERN UNIVERSITY

3900 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD • TYLER, TEXAS 75701 • 214/566-1471

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 24, 1977

To: Board of Regents, Texas Eastern University
From: James H. Stewart, Jr. 
Subject: Administrative Notes

I. Attorney General's Opinion Concerning Constitutional Tax Fund

Over the past three or four months, the Texas Commissioner of Higher Education has had under study the matter of seeking an Attorney General's Opinion concerning several aspects of the constitutional ad valorem tax fund from which money is derived for state senior colleges and universities that do not benefit from the Permanent University Fund. The Commissioner has considered this matter for the past few months in order to coordinate with various other state officers such as the Comptroller of Public Accounts and State Auditor as well as members of the Council of Presidents of Public Senior Colleges and Universities of Texas. Commissioner Ashworth has recently determined the verbiage to be included in the letter requesting an official opinion pursuant to the ad valorem tax matter and a copy of the draft of his letter is attached for your information. The only variation in the draft letter is that on the tenth line of Question 1. between the words "created" and "since" the phrase "by the legislature" will be inserted. As you will recognize, an affirmative answer by the Attorney General to Question 1. would be very significant to Texas Eastern University and other new institutions which the legislature failed to include in the constitutional tax fund during the 65th Legislative Session even though this was recommended by the Hobby-Clayton Commission.

II. Council of Presidents Reorganization

At a meeting on Thursday evening, October 20, 1977, the Council of Presidents of the Public Senior Colleges and Universities of Texas reorganized under new bylaws thereby establishing a more formal association of higher educational institutional heads in our state. Among other purposes,

the council will provide a forum for discussing the mutual needs, concerns and challenges of the Public Senior Colleges and Universities of Texas. And I am very pleased to observe that, in my opinion, senior institutions over the past several months have exhibited more desire to work cooperatively for the general interests of Texas higher education than at any time in recent years. Therefore, the prospect for progress in Texas higher education through the joint efforts of all institutions seems to be positive as our new organization is launched.

Elected at the October 20th meeting were President E. D. Walker of the University of Texas System as chairperson, President William R. Johnson of Stephen F. Austin State University as vice chairperson and President John G. Barker of Midwestern State University as secretary-treasurer. In addition to these general officers, five other presidents were elected as members of the executive committee by the council membership. The five are: Chancellor Jack K. Williams of the Texas A&M University System, President Philip G. Hoffman of the University of Houston System, President Lee H. Smith of Southwest Texas State University, President Max Sherman of West Texas State University and myself. Surely, I was pleased to be elected by my colleagues to serve as one of the eight members of the executive committee of the council.

III. Talented Youth Seminars

As you are aware, Texas Eastern University has participated in the Region VII Education Service Center Talented Youth Seminar program for the past three years. This is a program for exceptional high school students from school districts throughout East Texas conducted on campus by volunteer TEU faculty members outside their regular responsibilities. This program brought some 969 students to our campus last year, and we expect several hundred outstanding high school students to attend this seminar series for the current year beginning in November and continuing through early April 1978. A copy of the 1977-78 seminar schedule is attached for your information.

IV. Taos Art Exhibit

In connection with the university's Art Department, the Taos Art Association's traveling exhibition, including 40 works by 30 artists, will be on display in Room 134 of the University Center beginning Sunday, November 6, 1977 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. and continuing Monday and Tuesday, November 7 and 8, 1977 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. A special invitation to view the exhibit during the Sunday afternoon showing is being sent to community/junior college art students and faculty members. Since the exhibit will be open for a brief period on Sunday afternoon, board

members may be interested in viewing the exhibit at this time.

V. Update on Becknell Trial

As I informed you last week, the Becknell murder case was set for trial on October 18, 1977 by Judge Donald M. Carroll of the Seventh Judicial District Court of Texas. The defense, however, filed a motion for a competency hearing which was commenced immediately and concluded on the afternoon of October 19, 1977 with the decision that Becknell is competent to stand trial for the Roddy murder with which is is charged. The jury required 28 minutes to reach this decision. Judge Carroll has since set the trial date for November 28, 1977.

VI. Report from Resident Engineer

Attached is a report from the director of physical plant and resident engineer for the week ending October 21, 1977.

JHS:rc
Attachments